

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph [0034] with:

-- A representation of entities on a directory server is shown in Figure 6. Masters M (160) and N (162) have clients A (164), B (166), C (168), and D (169). Assume the following facts. All clients have a replica of the same data, and client A (164) modifies the contents of an entry at master M (160). Around the same time, client [[B (166)]] C (168) modifies the same entry at master N (162). At some later point in time, all the masters and all the replicas attempt to reconcile the changes in the directory contents. An Update Resolution Procedure (URP) is used to determine the correct ordering of various operations. The URP is the process by which update conflicts are detected and resolved. The URP uses the Value Resolution Routine (VRR) to enforce total ordering with respect to the time that operations occur. The update resolution policy of the URP determines the method used to resolve update conflicts. Consistent application of the same URP across all cooperating servers guarantees that eventually all servers contain the same data. --